

**REMARKS**

Entry of the foregoing and favorable consideration of the subject application, in light of the following remarks, are respectfully requested.

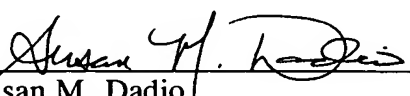
By the foregoing amendment, the specification has been amended to insert the sequence listing after the last page of the specification (page 93) and before the claims (page 94). Please renumber the pages of the application accordingly. The specification has also been amended on page 15. Moreover, claims 1-23 and 25-32 have been amended to be in better form for United States practice and to remove dependency on multiple claims. New claims 33-46 have also been added. Support for the amendments to the above-mentioned claims as well as the newly added claims can be found throughout the application. No new matter has been added.

In the event that there are any questions relating to this Preliminary Amendment, or the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney concerning such questions so that prosecution of this application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: March 4, 2004

By:   
Susan M. Dadio  
Registration No. 40,373

P.O. Box 1404  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404  
(703) 836-6620